

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 29, 2003 LB 122

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, LB 122 is a bill brought to us by Game and Parks. Surprise, surprise, surprise. But I will tell you that since 1983, the park permit in this state has been raised only once. The park permit fee prior to 1983 was \$10. It was raised to \$14 in 1983, and it has been...I'm sorry, it was \$10 from 1983 to 1993; and in 1993 it was raised to \$14. The daily permit is \$2.50. This LB 122 would allow the fee to go to \$20 for the annual fee, and it would go to \$4...could go to \$4 for the daily fee, depending upon the action of the Game and Parks commissioners. It is important to note that the park entry permit applies to vehicles only and not to individuals. Therefore, the current rate of \$14 annual or \$2.50 daily is for the vehicle. There may be, and often is, multiple people in the vehicle, allowing all the people in that vehicle to enter into the park for that one permit. Example would be, if there's five people in the vehicle and they purchase a daily permit for \$2.50, you could argue that each person is being charged a whole 50 cents to get in, the fee. The Game and Parks Commission manages 86 state park areas. I have maps set out on the tables. You are welcome to take them and look at them. I have extra maps here. But they do manage 86 areas that it does require a permit to enter. They are state park areas, they're state historical parks, and they're recreation areas. Therefore, people can enter our parks by...but people can enter our parks by other means. They can walk into the park, they can hike into the park, they can bike into the park, and not pay for a fee. It is important to note also that the Game and Parks fee has a free day. So if the state...if the people in the state of Nebraska want to go to the park free, usually the Saturday before Memorial Day, you can enter the parks free. And Senator Landis, that reminds me of a story, when I was a freshman and you were a seasoned veteran at that time, that you introduced a bill for a free day of fishing in the state of Nebraska. So there is one day a year when you can fish free in this state. And I thought, if that's good for the fisherman, that should be good for the hunter. So I introduced an amendment that would have a free day of hunting for the hunters of the state of Nebraska. And Senator Landis very indignantly came down to my desk in the front row and said, Senator Schrock, can you imagine what it would be like if we had all these crazy hunters loose with guns; they'd be killing each